



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: December 5, 2019

Agenda Item: 2020-2021 Wolf Hunting Seasons and Hunting District Boundaries and SB 200 Quota

Action Needed: Proposed

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 Minutes

Background: Season structures and hunting district boundaries are adopted for most game species every other year between December and final adoptions in February. In proposing regulations to the commission, FWP proposes adopting the existing 2019 structure except for specific changes. Proposals are based on population status and/or other circumstances. **Changes to the original document are highlighted in yellow.**

At the Dec. 5 meeting the Fish and Wildlife Commission proposed reducing the wolf harvest quota in WMU 313 from 2 to 1 and in WMU 316 from 2 to 1. No other changes are proposed.

Senate Bill 200 allows landowners or their agents to take wolves on their private property that are a potential threat to human safety, livestock, or domestic dogs. The commission annually approves a quota for SB 200 take, which last year was up to 100 in separate commission-approved intervals of 25 in a calendar year. Few wolves are taken under SB 200; it has varied from three to 12. Anyone can kill wolves in defense of life and property, and those numbers are also presented for comparison, but require no commission action.

Wolf take by landowners under Senate Bill 200 (MCA 87-1-901) and Defense of Property statutes.

Calendar Year	SB 200 Take	Defense of Property Take
2014	6	7
2015	12	4
2016	9	4
2017	7	7
2018	3	13

Public Involvement Process & Results: In addition to public comment taken during the Dec. 5 commission meeting, public comment will run through 5 p.m., Jan. 22, 2020. Any final adoptions will take place at the February 2020 commission meeting.

Alternatives and Analysis: Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, with additions, with deletions, or no change from 2019 (status quo).

Proposed Motion: I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt for public comment the 2020 and 2021 wolf hunting seasons and hunting districts and the SB 200 quota as presented by FWP, and that all other aspects of the wolf season remain unchanged unless addressed in other proposals.